

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining user input in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

displaying at least a portion of a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu;

rotating the first curvilinear menu about an axis to radially align an option from the first set with a fixed selection indicator;

in response to a selection of the radially-aligned option from the first set, displaying at least a portion of a second curvilinear menu comprising a second set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the second curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first curvilinear menu; and

rotating the second curvilinear menu about the axis to radially align a user-selected option from the second set with the fixed selection indicator, wherein the user-selected options from the first and second sets always define a radially-aligned selection path through the first and second curvilinear menus.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to a selection of the radially-aligned option from the second set, displaying at least a portion of a third curvilinear menu comprising a third set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the third curvilinear menu, wherein the third curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first and second curvilinear menus; and

rotating the third curvilinear menu about the axis to radially align a user-selected option from the third set with the fixed selection indicator, wherein the user-selected options from the first, second, and third sets always define a radially-aligned selection path through the first, second, and third curvilinear menus.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second curvilinear menus are ring-shaped.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectable options from the second set are determined by a selected option from the first set.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectable options from the second set are sub-options of a selected option from the first set.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selectable options from the first and second sets are hierarchically related.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one selectable option comprises an icon.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one selectable option comprises text description.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one selectable option is associated with an audio sample, and wherein the audio sample is automatically played in response to the corresponding option being aligned with the fixed selection indicator without prior to an explicit selection action other than rotating one of the curvilinear menus.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically encircles ~~displayed around~~ the first curvilinear menu.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically encircled by ~~displayed within~~ the first curvilinear menu.

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first curvilinear menu is only partially displayed in the graphical user interface, and wherein the first set of selectable options comprises a subset of available options associated with the first curvilinear menu.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the first curvilinear menu is rotatable in response to a user command to display a different subset of available options.

22. (currently amended) A user interface comprising:
a fixed selection indicator;
a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options
circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu, wherein the first curvilinear menu is rotatable to radially align a user-selected option from the first set with the fixed selection indicator;

a second curvilinear menu comprising a second set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the second curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is displayed in response to a user selection of an option from the first set, and wherein the second curvilinear menu is rotatable to radially align a user-selected option from the second set with the fixed selection indicator, wherein the user-selected options from the first and second sets always define a radially-aligned selection path through the first and second curvilinear menus.

23. (currently amended) The user interface of claim 22, further comprising:
a third curvilinear menu comprising a third set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the third curvilinear menu, wherein the third curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the second curvilinear menu, wherein the third curvilinear menu is displayed in response to a user selection of an option from the second set, and wherein the third curvilinear menu is rotatable to align a user-selected option from the third set with the fixed selection indicator, wherein the user-selected options from the first, second, and third sets always define a radially-aligned selection path through the first, second, and third curvilinear menus.

24. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the first and second curvilinear menus are ring-shaped.

25. (canceled).
26. (canceled).
27. (canceled).
28. (canceled).
29. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the selectable options from the second set are determined by a selected option from the first set.
30. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the selectable options from the second set are sub-options of a selected option from the first set.
31. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the selectable options from the first and second sets are hierarchically related.
32. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein at least one selectable option comprises an icon.
33. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein at least one selectable option comprises text description.

34. (currently amended) The user interface of claim 22, wherein at least one selectable option is associated with an audio sample, and wherein the audio sample is automatically played in response to the corresponding option being aligned with the fixed selection indicator without prior to an explicit selection action other than rotating one of the curvilinear menus.

35. (currently amended) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically encircles ~~displayed around~~ the first curvilinear menu.

36. (currently amended) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically encircled by ~~displayed within~~ the first curvilinear menu.

37. (canceled).

38. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the first curvilinear menu is only partially displayed, and wherein the first set of selectable options comprises a subset of available options associated with the first curvilinear menu.

39. (original) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the first curvilinear menu is rotatable in response to a user command to display a different subset of available options.

40. (currently amended) A computer program product for performing a method for obtaining user input in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

displaying at least a portion of a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu;

rotating the first curvilinear menu about an axis to radially align a user-selected option from the first set with a fixed selection indicator;

in response to a selection of the radially-aligned option from the first set, displaying at least a portion of a second curvilinear menu comprising a second set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the second curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first curvilinear menu; and

rotating the second curvilinear menu about the axis to radially align a user-selected option from the second set with the fixed selection indicator, wherein the user-selected options from the first and second sets always define a radially-aligned selection path through the first and second curvilinear menus.

41. (currently amended) A system for obtaining user input in a graphical user interface, the system comprising:

means for displaying at least a portion of a first curvilinear menu comprising a first set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the first curvilinear menu, wherein the first curvilinear menu is rotatable to align a user-selected option from the first set of selectable options with the fixed selection indicator;

means for displaying, in response to a selection of the radially-aligned option from the first set, at least a portion of a second curvilinear menu comprising a second set of selectable options circumferentially disposed on the second curvilinear menu, wherein the second curvilinear menu is concentrically-disposed relative to the first curvilinear menu, and wherein the second curvilinear menu is rotatable to radially align a user-selected option from the second set of selectable options with the fixed selection indicator, wherein the user-selected options from the first and second sets always define a radially-aligned selection path through the first and second curvilinear menus.

42. (canceled).

43. (canceled).

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